

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, line 5, with the following amended paragraph:

This application is a continuation of U.S. patent application Serial No. 10/313,601, filed December 4, 2002, which claims the benefit under 35 U.S.C. § 1.119(e) of Provisional Application Serial No. 60/337,218 filed December 4, 2001, the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference in its entirety herein.

Please replace the paragraph on page 7, line 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Preferably, the hydrogenating step [[a]] c) is carried out in an organic solvent in the presence of a catalyst to obtain orlistat.